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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/780,659	02/19/2004	Tomonori Minagawa	03500.017922.	3581
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EXAMINER				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/780,659

Applicant(s)

MINAGAWA, TOMONORI

Examiner

CHUCK O. KENDALL

Art Unit

2192

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/22/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. This is in response to application filed 02/19/04.
2. Claims 1 – 43 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1 – 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kemp et al. US 2003/0200289 A1.

Regarding claims 1, 15, 27, 29, and 35, a print processing system in which at least a server apparatus, a client apparatus, and a printer are connected to a network, wherein said server apparatus comprises:

printer managing means for managing information on said printer[0007];

printer driver managing means for managing a printer driver for said printer for which the information is managed[0007];

client managing means for managing said client apparatus; and

installing means for installing said printer driver in said client apparatus which has issued an install request for said printer driver, wherein said printer driver comprises a core module for performing basis processing of printing and extended modules for performing processing of specific functions, said core module comprising function calling means for calling and using functions based upon said extended modules, and wherein said client apparatus comprises [0007]:

install requesting means for issuing an install request for said printer driver to said server apparatus[0009];

installing means for installing said printer driver including said extended modules, which has been received from said server apparatus, in a storage of said client apparatus in cooperation with said server apparatus[0009]; and

changing means for changing a user interface of said printer driver in response to said extended modules being incorporated by said core module [0010].

Regarding claims 2, 16, 28, and 30, an information processing method for a print processing system in which at least a server apparatus, a client

apparatus, and a printer are connected to a network, the information processing method comprising:

- a printer management step of managing information on said printer; a printer driver management step of managing a printer driver for said printer for which the information is managed [0007];

- a client management step of managing said client apparatus[0007];
- and an install step of installing said printer driver in said client apparatus which has issued an install request for said printer driver, the steps being executed by said server apparatus, and an install request step of issuing an install request for said printer driver to said server apparatus ([0007],and see [0009]); and

- an install step of installing said printer driver, which has been received from said server apparatus, in storages of said client apparatuses in cooperation with said server apparatus, the steps being executed by said client apparatuses, and said printer driver comprises a core module for performing basis processing of printing and extended modules for performing processing of specific functions, said core module including a function call step for calling and using functions based upon said extended modules([0007],and see [0009]).

Regarding claims 3 and 17, the information processing method according to claim 2, further comprising:

- a plug-in step of plugging in said extended modules [0043]; and
- an extended module use step of making it possible for said core module to use functions of said plugged-in extended modules, the steps being executed by said printer driver[0043].

Regarding claims 4 and 18, the information processing method according to claim 2, wherein said printer driver changes a constitution of said extended modules constituting said printer driver to be thereby customized as a printer driver including different functions and limitations [0043, see extensible].

Regarding claims 5 and 19, the information processing method according to claim 2, wherein said printer driver management step comprising:

- an acquisition step of acquiring a printer driver and an extended module corresponding to said printer for which the information is managed[0010];

- a saving step of saving said acquired printer driver and extended module on a memory[0028, see storing data files]; and a

printer driver selection step of selecting a printer driver to be installed in said client apparatus[0048].

Regarding claims 6 and 20, the information processing method according to claim 2, further comprising a printer information return step in which said printer returns information of at least a name and an IP address to said server apparatus according to search processing from the server apparatus [0048].

Regarding claims 7 and 21, the information processing method according to claim 2, wherein said printer management step comprises:

a printer detection step of searching a printer on said network [0048];
and

a printer information acquisition step of acquiring at least a name and an IP address of the printer out of information on the searched printer from the searched printer[0048].

Regarding claims 8 and 22, the information processing method according to claim 2, further comprising:

a client apparatus information return step in which said client apparatus returns information of at least a name and an IP address according to search processing from said server apparatus[0048];

and an install information return step in which said client apparatus returns a type of an installed module to said server apparatus according to search processing from said server[0048].

Regarding claim 9, the information processing method according to claim 2, wherein said client management step comprises:

a client search step of searching a client apparatus on said network[0052]; and

a client information acquisition step of acquiring at least a name and an IP address of the client apparatus out of information on the searched client apparatus [0052].

Regarding claim 10, the information processing method according to claim 2, wherein said install step comprises:

a printer driver transmission step of sending said printer driver of a printer set by said server apparatus with respect to said client apparatus or a printer selected by said client apparatus to said client apparatus[0009];
and

an environment setting step for performing environment setting including an output port with respect to said client apparatus[0007, see creating port].

Regarding claims 11 and 23, the information processing method according to claim 2, wherein said install step comprises:

an entire printer driver install step of installing said entire printer driver[0048]; and

a selection install step of selecting and installing only a specific module [0048].

Regarding claims 13 and 25, the information processing method according to claim 2, further comprising:

a printer selection step of selecting a printer to be installed for each client, the step being executed by said server apparatus[0048]; and

an extended module selection step of selecting an extended module to be installed for each client [0048].

Regarding claims 14 and 26, the information processing method according to claim 2, further comprising:

a list releasing step of releasing lists of said printers and said extended modules for which information is managed to said client apparatus to make selection of said printers and said extended modules by said client apparatus possible, the step being executed by said server apparatus[0048]; and

a list section step of selecting necessary printers and extended modules from the list of printers and the list of extended modules, which have been released by said server apparatus[0048]; and

an install request issue step of issuing an install request for said selected printers and extended modules to said server apparatus, the steps being executed by said client apparatus[0048].

Regarding claim 31, the remote install method according to claim 30, wherein the information to be acquired in said acquisition step includes designation of a device which is allowed to be used for each of said client apparatuses and designation of a function extended program which is allowed to be installed for each of said devices [0029].

Regarding claim 32, the remote install method according to claim 30, wherein, in said install step, said extended function program is installed with a client apparatus requesting install of said extended function program as

said designated client apparatus [0048].

Regarding claim 33, the remote install method according to claim 30, wherein, in said install step, said extended function program is installed in said designated client apparatus in accordance with designation of a client apparatus inputted from an input device and an install start instruction [0029, see assign].

Regarding claim 34, the remote install method according to claim 30, wherein, in said install step, an extended function program, which is allowed to be installed in a device allowed to be used for said designated client apparatus, is installed in said designated client apparatus [0029, see assign].

Regarding claim 36, the server apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said extended function program is installed in said client apparatus with an identifier thereof registered and is connected to a driver of said device according to said registered identifier [0046].

Regarding claim 37, the server apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said extended function program is registered as an object to be supported by an inter-object communication function provided by an operating system of said client apparatus, connected to the driver of said device by said inter-object communication function, and called in a form decided in advance [0046].

Regarding claim 38, the server apparatus according to claim 35, further comprising designating means for designating a device, which is allowed to be used for each of said client apparatuses, and an extended function program which is allowed to be installed for each of said devices [0029].

Regarding claim 39, the server apparatus according to claim 35, wherein information indicating the device and the extended function program designated by said designating means is provided to a client apparatus requesting install of said extended function program, and said sending means sends said extended function program designated by said client apparatus with said client apparatus as said designated client apparatus [0029].

Regarding claim 40, the server apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said sending means sends the extended function program to said designated client apparatus in accordance with designation of a client apparatus inputted from inputting means and an install starting instruction [0029].

Regarding claim 41, the server apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said sending means sends an extended function program, which is allowed to be installed in a device allowed to be used for said designated client apparatus, to said designated client [0043, see extensible].

Regarding claim 42, a client apparatus which remotely installs a program provided from a server apparatus, comprising:

means for installing a program received from said server; designating means for designating one of extended function programs which are allowed to be installed in a usable device[0009]; and

means for designating an extended function program to be sent to said server [0009,00029,and 00048].

Regarding claim 43, the client apparatus according to claim 42, further comprising means for requesting information on the extended function

program, which is allowed to be installed in said device allowed to be used, from said server, wherein said designating means designates one of said extended function programs on the basis of information which said server sends to said requesting means [0009,00029, and 00048].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 12 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kemp et al. US 2003/0200289 A1 as applied in claim 2 in view of McCannon et al. US 6,607,314 B1.

Regarding claim 12, Kemp discloses all the claimed limitations as applied in claim 2 above. Claim 12 doesn't expressly disclose wherein said install step comprises a difference module install step of judging a difference between a module group already installed in client apparatus, which has become objects of install, and a module group which should be installed, and installing only a difference module. However, McCannon in an analogous art

and similar configuration of installing and managing printers and drivers on a remote system (see abstract) teaches, in 7:30 - 45, the ability to compare the version information of the drivers and determine the most recent version between the versions in use and that which would be installed.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Kemp and McCannon because it would enable determining the most recent version residing on the printer prior to installation as suggest by McCannon above.

Correspondence information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chuck Kendall whose telephone number is 571-272-3698. The examiner can normally be reached between Monday and Thursday, at 11:00 am - 4:300pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Dam can be reached on 571-272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Chuck O Kendall/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2192